THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Special Category Status to Goa

1726. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goa has made a demand for special category status in view of its weak resource base;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give special category status to Goa in view of its resources crunch since Goa is mainly depending upon the income from tourism sector only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) States included among the Special Category States, for the purpose of Central Assistance for Plan Financing, are those which have a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries and are hilly states, some with large tribal population and/or which have been constituted out of former small Union Territories districts, with limited and weak resource base compared to their development needs.

Goa, though carved out of erstwhile Union Territory, has no such handicap. It is one of the richer States with a well developed fiscal framework and possesses a known potential for resource mobilisation from tourism, minerals and mineral based industries. As such the State of Goa does not qualify for the status of Special Category States.

Schemes for Development of Hill areas in the Eighth Plan

1727. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether special schemes are being formulated for the development of Hill areas in the Eighth Five Year plan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Hill Areas Development Programme is likely to continue in the designated Hill Areas and the Western Ghats Region during the Eighth Five Year Plan also. The objective of the programme is to ensure socio-economic development of the hill communities in harmony with ecological concerns and schemes are likely to be formulated accordingly.

Cut in the Annual Plan of Uttar Pradesh

1728. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in a letter to the Prime Minister has urged him to reconsider the decision of the Planning Commission to cut down the State's Annual Plan, as per the news item titled "Kalyan for bigger Annual Plan", appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 30th January, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the extent of cuts suggested by the Central Government on the Annual Plan of Uttar Pradesh;